

Perth Observatory, Western Australia.

Once more, and it is hoped for the last time, the work of this observatory has been almost exclusively meteorological.

Some very useful work has, however, been accomplished, and the way made ready for the commencement of astronomical observations. In particular a book on the climate of Western Australia has been prepared. This has necessitated a thorough inspection of all records which were taken prior to the establishment of the observatory, checking all the additions, &c., and entering the results in ledgers. Its preparation has taken three or four years, as most of the officers' time was required for the routine work, but it is at last ready for the printer.

The routine meteorological work of course includes the issue of forecasts, which have been again very successful, even the public appearing to have some faith in them. The following were prepared during 1900 :—

1. For the whole State, issued at noon daily in connection with a weather map of the whole of Australia.
2. For the whole State, communicated to the Press daily at 8 P.M., in conjunction with a weather report from sixteen selected stations.
3. For the goldfields districts, telegraphed each evening at 8 P.M. to five daily newspapers circulated in that region.
4. For Perth and its immediate neighbourhood only, issued at 9 A.M. and exhibited in a pictorial form, similar to that of the London *Daily Graphic*.

The following were the percentage results for 1900 :—

	1	2	3
Correct	90	93	87
Partially correct	9	5	11
Wrong	1	2	2

The results of No. 4 were not tabulated, but the forecasts were almost invariably correct.

In astronomy the transit circle was used mainly for time purposes. Messrs. Joscelyne and Curlewis each made a determination of latitude from morning and evening circumpolars on three winter nights. Their results were respectively

$$31^{\circ} 57' 09''.42 \quad \text{and} \quad 31^{\circ} 57' 09''.60,$$

which are in satisfactory accordance with one another and with the value already obtained by the Government astronomer, viz. $31^{\circ} 57' 09''.63$. None of these results have been corrected for errors of division.

The astrographic equatorial has been used almost entirely for the benefit of visitors. It was inevitable that many people

should wish to inspect the new observatory, and, in order to gratify as many as possible, parties of twelve to twenty were invited about three or four evenings every week. This popular state of affairs ceased on December 31, and in future only three evenings per month will be available for this purpose. A few students received instruction from the Government astronomer in practical astronomy during the early spring evenings.

The outlook now is decidedly more promising. At the request of the International Committee the Western Australian Government has agreed to allow the astronomer to take a share in the Photographic Durchmusterung, and additional assistance has been authorised. The zone -32° to -40° has been assigned, and it is probable that both astrographic telescope and transit circle will be in full work during the latter half of 1901.

Errata.

In Mr. H. C. Plummer's paper, page 146, Equation (3), *for* $\sin \delta \sin -\phi$
read $\sin \delta \sin \phi$.

In Annual Report (Progress of Meteoric Astronomy), page 246, 6th line from top, *for* perihelion *read* aphelion.